

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report. I want to commend Chairman BOEHNER and Ranking Member MILLER for putting together a strong compromise on such an important issue.

This legislation has the potential to dramatically change the public education system in this country. It authorizes significant levels of funding. It says to parents that Congress believes education is a top priority, and that we will make good on our goal—that every child in America should get a quality education.

I am pleased with the changes this bill makes. Changes to the Title I formula will provide a 29-percent increase for New York City schools. For years, the New York City school system has provided an education to tens of thousands of low-income and disadvantaged children, while receiving less than their fair share of Title I funding. This money is especially important as New York City schools recover from the continuing effects of September 11.

This legislation also promises parents that their children will have qualified teachers in the classroom, and that student progress will be closely monitored to ensure that they are on the right track.

I've had the pleasure to work with Chairman RALPH REGULA and Ranking Member DAVID OBEY in crafting the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. They have both worked tirelessly to provide significant increases in education funding this year, and we will vote on the fruits of their labor next week.

But while we will provide these increases this year, the prospects for continuing to provide the resources necessary to continue our efforts on education are dim. The faltering economy, coupled with the increasing impact of the President's tax cut, will make the appropriations process exceedingly difficult in the coming years. We will be forced to make some difficult choices.

This same dilemma will be felt in all fifty states. School districts across the country are being forced to slash their budgets as state revenues have plummeted. If we enforce these new requirements without ensuring that schools have the funding to implement them, our school districts will have to make choices they shouldn't be asked to consider.

I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well. I also hope that our support for education does not stop at authorizing funds, but that this vote today is the first step in the process of providing the necessary resources. Our children deserve no less.

H.R. 2187, CLEANUP FUNDS FOR
COLORADO OIL SHALE RESERVE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, which I have cosponsored with my colleague, the dean of the Colorado delegation, Representative HEFLEY.

H.R. 2187 would enable the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to begin environmental restoration activities at the Naval Oil Shale Reserve 3, near Rifle, Colorado, using existing funds in a special Treasury account.

This account was specifically designated in the Strom Thurmond National Defense Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85) which transferred administration of the two Colorado Naval Oil Shale Reserves—Numbered 1 and 3, and known as NOSR 1 & 3—from the Department of Energy to the Department of the Interior for management by BLM.

This provision was added to that act by an amendment offered by Mr. HEFLEY with the assistance and support of my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs. It specifies that receipts from existing mineral leases in NOSR 3 are to be retained in a special account intended for cleanup of contamination caused by previous activities on these lands. However, to avoid Budget Act problems the amendment provided that subsequent legislation would be required to authorize BLM to have access to the funds.

Since enactment of Public Law 105-85, the Interior Department has collected approximately \$8.5 million in lease receipts, which are currently held in the special cleanup account.

Enactment of H.R. 2187 will allow BLM to use up to \$1.5 million of these funds for the preliminary analyses needed before cleanup work can begin and to prepare an estimate of the cost of completing the project. BLM can then begin work, unless the estimated cost of the work would be more than the total in the special account. If the estimate indicates that more would be required than the total in the account, a subsequent authorization will be required before work can begin.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that will allow BLM to begin the process of cleaning up the lands involved and reducing the risks of contaminated runoff reaching the Colorado River. I commend Mr. HEFLEY for introducing the bill and urge its approval by the House.

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT NGUYEN
VAN THIEU

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sincere condolences to the family of former Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, who died on September 29, 2001. President Thieu played an important role in the history of his country and that of the United States.

Thieu's passing closes a sad chapter in the history of two nations—Vietnam and the

United States. To many Vietnamese in San Jose, Nguyen Van Thieu's name is synonymous with the struggle of the Vietnamese people to live freely without fear of Communist repression. As a founding member of the Congressional Dialogue on Vietnam, I feel it is important that we in the House continue that fight on behalf of those in Vietnam and around the world who are unable to speak, assemble, or worship freely.

Thieu was born April 5, 1923 as the youngest of five children in the poverty-stricken town of Phan Rang in central Ninh Thuan province. He attended the Merchant Marine Academy and the National Military Academy in Dalat, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in 1949. As an infantry platoon commander in the French campaign against the Viet Minh—the precursor to the Viet Cong—he became regarded as a good strategist and capable leader.

President Thieu passed away with family present in the suburbs of Boston, where he spent the last years of his life. I wish to again extend my condolences to his family and those grieving his loss, and hope that one day the dream he shared of democracy, freedom, and human rights will come to Vietnam.

IN MEMORY OF DOUGLAS
ECCLESTON

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Douglas L. Eccleston, a Staff Sergeant with the United States Air Force, who lost his life on December 7, 2001, while performing a rescue mission 1,000 miles off the coast of Florida. His heroic action successfully saved the life of a critically ill sailor.

Mr. Eccleston honorably served his country for 15 years and was a member of the elite Pararescue team assigned to the 920th Rescue Group at Patrick Air Force Base in Satellite Beach, Florida. His service included military action in Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm as a Combat Controller.

During the first part of his career, Doug was a combat controller, an airman who helps direct air strikes from the ground, often in hazardous territory. During the last part of his career, Doug worked to become a Pararescue, also known as a "PJ", an airman who rescues downed aviators anywhere in the world under any conditions.

Mr. Eccleston's military decorations include: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and National Defense Medal.

Doug is survived by his wife, Stacie, his loving parents David and Donna Eccleston and sisters Dana Mohr and Dianna Coulton. Several hundred people attended the memorial service that was conducted at Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach, Florida, on December 11, 2001. Funeral services were held in Midland, Texas on December 13, 2001.

Doug will be remembered by those who loved him as a fun loving, caring man. His life's passions included family and surfing. In memory of Doug Eccleston's love of surfing,